

## Claims

What is claimed is:

- [c1] A method of creating and defining a custom data field within a process management system, comprising:  
creating a file to specify visible field properties of the custom data field;  
and  
defining a model of the custom data field.
- [c2] The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
packaging the file and the model into an archive file.
- [c3] The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
inserting the custom data field and adding the archive file into the process management system as a new class.
- [c4] The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
deploying the process management system with the new class.
- [c5] The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
testing the process management system with the new class.
- [c6] The method of claim 1, wherein the model is a written class and at least two implemented interfaces.
- [c7] The method of claim 6, wherein the class determines presentation and data management capabilities of the custom data field.

- [c8] The method of claim 1, wherein the model is an image created to depict the custom data field.
- [c9] The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
packaging the file and the model into an archive file;  
inserting the custom data field and adding the archive file into the process management system as a new class;  
deploying the process management system with the new class; and  
testing the process management system with the new class.
- [c10] A method of creating and defining a custom data field within a process management system, comprising:  
creating a file to specify visible field properties of the custom data field;  
defining a model of the custom data field;  
packaging the file and the model into an archive file;  
inserting the custom data field and adding the archive file into the process management system as a new class;  
deploying the process management system with the new class; and  
testing the process management system with the new class.
- [c11] An apparatus for creating and defining a custom data field within a process management system, comprising:  
a file specifying visible field properties;  
a model;  
an archive file created by packaging the file and the model; and  
a new class created by inserting the custom data field and adding the archive file.

- [c12] The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the model is an image created to depict the custom data field.
- [c13] The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the model is a written class and at least two implemented interfaces.
- [c14] The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the class determines presentation and data management capabilities of the custom data field.
- [c15] A computer system, comprising,  
a storage element comprising a process management system; and  
a processor for creating and defining a custom data field within a process management system in the storage element.
- [c16] The system of claim 15, further comprising:  
a computer monitor adapted to display the custom data field within the process management system.
- [c17] The system of claim 15, further comprising:  
an input device adapted to enter data into the custom data field within the process management system.
- [c18] An apparatus for creating and defining a custom data field within a process management system, comprising:  
means for creating a file to specify visible field properties of the custom data field;  
means for defining a model of the custom data field;  
means for packaging the file and the model into an archive file;

means for inserting the custom data field and adding the archive file into  
the process management system as a new class;  
means for deploying the process management system with the new class;  
and  
means for testing the process management system with the new class.

[c19] The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the model is an image created to depict  
the custom data field.

[c20] The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the model is a written class and at least  
two implemented interfaces.

[c21] The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the class determines presentation and  
data management capabilities of the custom data field.